GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4369
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Import of Aircraft
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently amended more than two decade old rules to allow domestic airlines to import aircraft up to 18 years old, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether aircraft which are more than 15 years old were allowed to be imported till now and the reasons for importing the aircraft of 18 years old;

(c) whether importing of 18 years old aircraft would be more risky for use and compromise safety and security of air passengers, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has assessed its likely impact on regional connectivity scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number and types of various aircraft with public and private airlines along with their age, airline-wise;

(f) the aircraft imported/purchased during the last three years and the current year, year-wise along with names of supplier companies;

(g) whether the country would require 1850 new aircraft including 10 regional jets and 280 wide-body planes in view of high domestic air traffic growth and to support the growth of low-cost airlines and replace the ageing fleet of airlines and whether the single-aisle planes would account for the largest share of new deliveries; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the details of ongoing deals with various aircraft manufacturing companies for procurement of civilian aircraft?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a): Yes Madam, DGCA has recently revised the regulation, Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 2, series F, part XX Rev. 5 dated 17th June 2016 and enabled import of aircraft up-to 18 years old. The details of revision in the CAR Section 2, series F, part XX Rev. 5 dated 17th June 2016 is enclosed as Annex-1.

(b): Prior to revision of CAR Section 2, series F, part XX the unpressured aircraft of more than 15 years of age were allowed to import on case to case basis for passenger use and pressured aircraft of more than 25 years age were allowed to be imported aircraft for cargo operation after assessing the suitability of aircraft with the approval.

The requirement relating to the age of the aircraft eligible for import was reviewed based on the representation received from the stakeholders.

(c): No Madam, Importing of 18 years old aircraft would not be more risky for use from safety and security of air passengers aspect, as the criteria for the import of these aircraft have been made more restrictive as under:

(i) Before import, aircraft should have flown 100 hrs within the preceding 6 months, so as to ensure continued airworthiness of the aircraft.

(ii) Design economical life (pressurization cycle) covered before import has been reduced from 75% to 50%, so as to ensure operation of the aircraft for longer period.
Besides the above, these aircraft are required to obtain Certificate of Airworthiness from DGCA prior to their operation.

(d): No such assessment has been carried out by Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(e): Total number of aircraft operated by public and private airlines are 464.The details of the aircraft, airline wise are given in the Annex-2 and age of these aircraft ranges from less than 1 year to 27 years.

(f): The details of aircraft imported/purchased during the last three years and the current year are 270. The details along with names of supplier companies are given in the Annex-3.

(g) & (h): There is no such information available in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).